



CITY COUNCIL

RRR000351

December 17, 2007

Mr. Edward Sproat, Director
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington DC 20585

RE: Draft Nevada Rail Corridor Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (Draft Rail EIS) and the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for a Geological Repository for the Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-level Radioactive Waste at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, Nevada (Draft Repository EIS)

Dear Director Sproat:

In letters dated October 31, 2006, December 5, 2006, and May 30, 2007, the Mayor and City Council of Sparks, Nevada have submitted written comments to the Department of Energy (DOE) regarding the scope of issues to be addressed in the Draft Rail EIS and Draft Repository EIS and also questioning the maintenance of the Mina Route as an alternative due to the denial by the Walker River Tribal Council of access through its sovereign land.

The City of Sparks was present at the November 19, 2007, public hearing regarding 90-day comment period provided for the two draft environmental documents referenced above. Our opposition, to both the rail corridor project and the repository, was discussed with the EIS Document Manager, Jane Summerson, PhD. With the understanding that the comment period for both EIS documents ends on January 10, 2008, the comments below are offered for the record to supplement those contained in our previous letters:

1. [The City of Sparks has a proud and long history of opposing both the transport through the city, as well as the deposit of nuclear waste in Nevada. Attached are resolutions number 2140, 1991, adopted by the Sparks City Council opposing the repository at Yucca Mountain and opposing transporting of nuclear waste through the city; number 2461, 1997 declaring Sparks a nuclear free zone; and number 2781, 2002 opposing transportation and storage of high-level nuclear waste in Nevada;

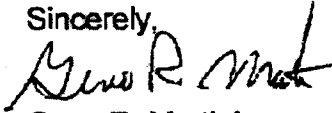
2. The City of Sparks is the fifth largest city in Nevada and its economic vitality is dependent upon thriving tourism and continual recruitment of residents, employment, and new investment. Nuclear fuels and waste transported through our city and a repository in our state would be counterproductive to these efforts;
3. Based on 2000 census data, approximately 22,000 City of Sparks' residents live within the 800 meter radiation exposure zone for rail shipments of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste using the potential Mina rail access route to Yucca Mountain;
4. Using DOE's estimates, there would be approximately 1,000 Casks on 333 trains through Sparks if the Mina rail line is developed;
5. Using State of Nevada estimates based on more realistic rail routing procedures, there would be about 4,800 Casks on 1,600 trains through Sparks if the Mina rail spur is built;
6. Each cask contains an enormous amount of dangerous fission product (especially Cesium-137 with a half-life of 30 years and 136,00 to 810,000 curies per cask);
7. A cask breach in a worst-case accident could result in an estimated 4,000 latent cancer fatalities and \$300,000 to \$10 billion in cleanup costs;
8. Shipping casks emit gamma radiation despite the heavy shielding and have been compared to moving X-ray machines. Routine gamma radiation from casks can be hazardous to workers and to some members of the public through repeated exposures;
9. Public perception of risk can produce significant adverse social and economic impacts;
10. There is a very real potential for property value impacts (losses) ranging from \$71 million under a benign accident scenario and \$1.8 billion in the case of an accident involving the release of radioactive material;
11. The Union Pacific rail yards in Sparks lack the necessary security features to safeguard the community from the opportunity for malicious acts; and
12. Union Pacific Railroad's plans to convert the Sparks rail yards to a robotic system for rail car switching, cargo loading, and most other operations, is not conducive to the handling of high-level nuclear waste.]

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Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



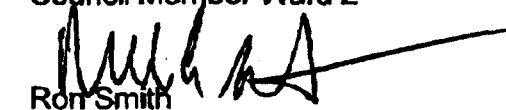
Geno R. Martini
Mayor



John R. Mayer
Council Member Ward 1



Phillip G. Salerno
Council Member Ward 2



Ron Smith
Council Member Ward 3



Mike Carrigan
Council Member Ward 4



Ron Schmitt
Council Member Ward 5

Cc: Governor Jim Gibbons
Nevada Congressional Delegation
State of Nevada, Agency for Nuclear Projects
Shaun D. Carey, City Manager
Union Pacific Railroad

enc: City of Sparks Resolution Number 2140, 1991
Resolution Number 2461, 1997
Resolution Number 2781, 2002

**FAX COVER SHEET**

City of Sparks
Government Affairs Department
431 Prater Way, Sparks NV 89431
775-353-2410-office 775-353-1520-fax

Date: 12-18-07

Number of pages (incl cover): 4

To: Office of Public Affairs, U.S. DoE

From: Kathy Clewett

Attn:

Phone Number: 775-353-2410

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Phone Number: 800-967-3477

☐ Urgent ☒ For Review ☐ Please comment ☐ Please Reply

REMARKS:

Attached is a signed letter of response, from our Mayor and entire City Council, to the draft repository SEIS and the draft rail alignment EIS. If there are any questions, please don't hesitate to call.

Thank you,
Kathy Clewett

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